THE ETERNALS™

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

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WHEN GODS WALK THE EARTH!

THE ETERNALS™

FACE-TO-FACE AGAINST THE COSMIC-POWERED HULK!

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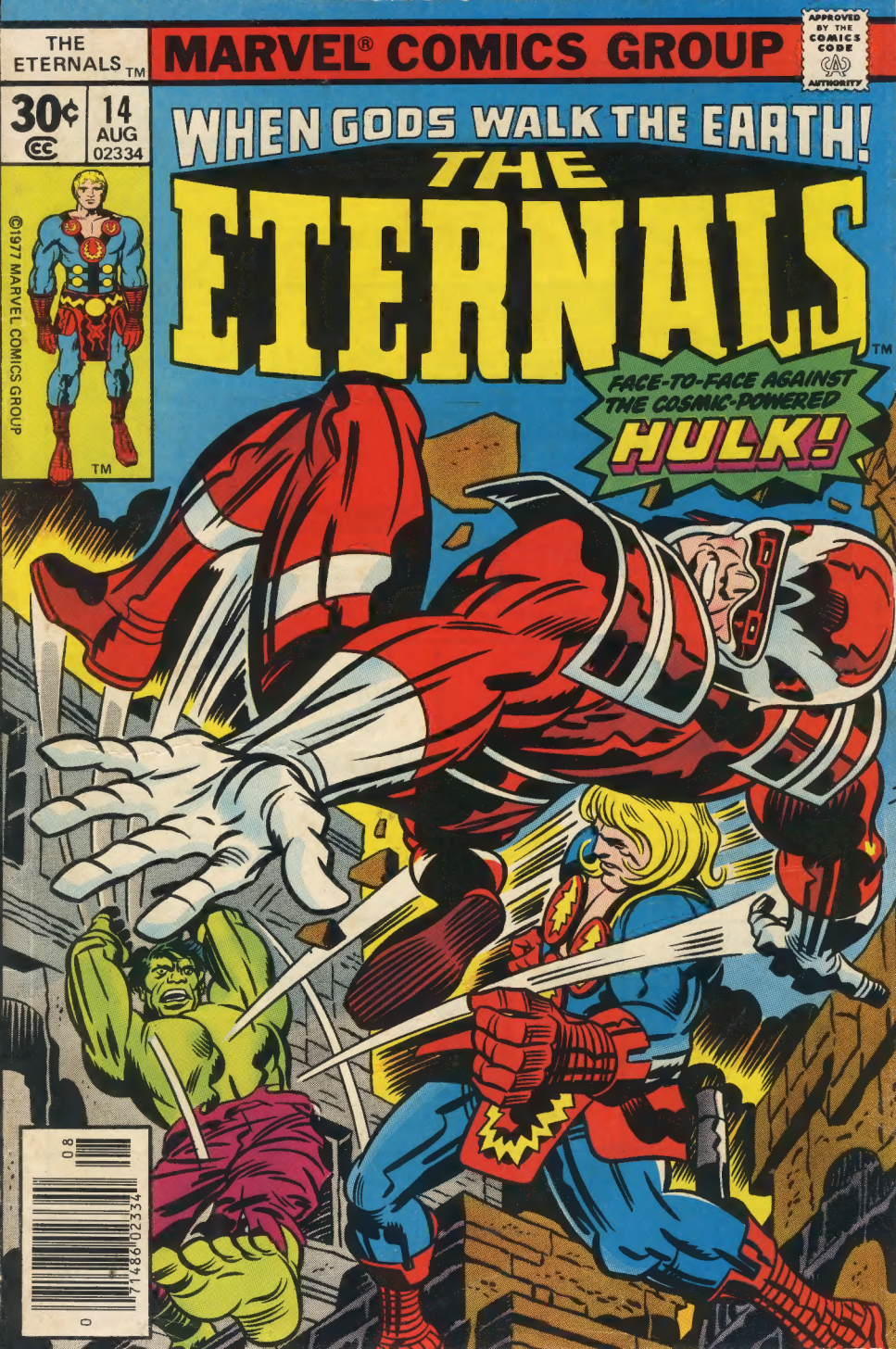

Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

STAN LEE PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

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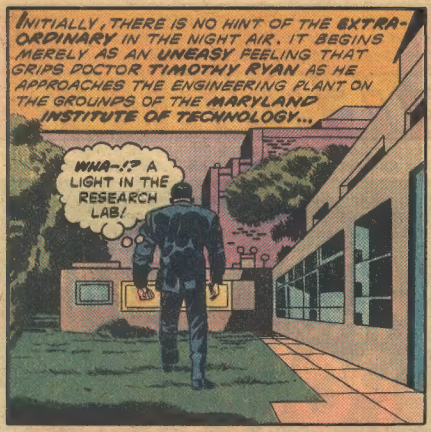
INITIALLY, THERE IS NO HINT OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY IN THE NIGHT AIR. IT BEGINS MERELY AS AN UNEASY FEELING THAT GRIPS DOCTOR TIMOTHY RYAN AS HE APPROACHES THE ENGINEERING PLANT ON THE GROUNDS OF THE MARYLAND INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY...
WHA-!? A LIGHT IN THE RESEARCH LAB!

I'VE EITHER DISCOVERED AN EAGER BEAVER OR A CLANDESTINE PRANKSTER!
IN ANY CASE, HE OR THEY SHALL SOON LEARN WHAT IT MEANS TO BEND THE RULES ON THIS CAMPUS!

THIS FACILITY IS OFF LIMITS AFTER CLASS HOURS! IF I HAVE TO DRILL THIS POINT HOME WITH A POWER TOOL, I'LL CERTAINLY USE ONE!

HAHAHAHAH-! DON'T CHICKEN OUT, RUSTY! HE'S ONLY A WALKING ELECTRONIC UNIT!
GREAT HEAVENS!

I KNOW THAT! BUT, IT'S ACTUALLY HARY TESTING HIM AT CLOSE QUARTERS!
H-HE'S LIKE THE REAL THING!
GRAWW!

SUDDENLY--!
YEEOOWW!! HE'S SNATCHED THE BAR FROM MY HANDS!

THE ROOM IS SHAKEN BY FRIGHTENING ROARS AS THE HUGE MAN-LIKE OBJECT SURGES MENACINGLY FORWARD...

LOOK OUT!

HE'S COMING FOR US WITH THAT IRON BAR!!

BACK OFF, RUSTY!!

RAARRR!!

KONK!

HE'S OUT OF CONTROL!

CRASH!

DO SOMETHING, ARTHUR! OR HE'LL—

DON'T BLOW YOUR COOL!

I'LL HANDLE HIM!!

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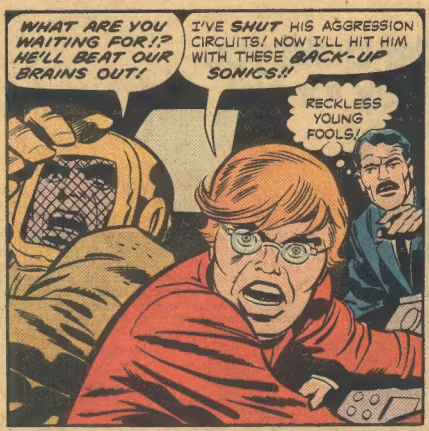
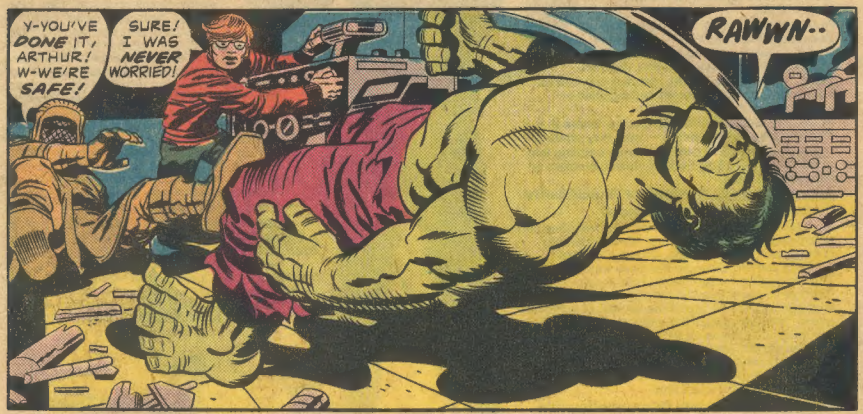
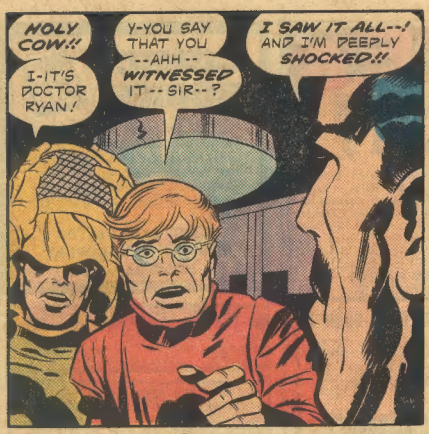

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!? HE'LL BEAT OUR BRAINS OUT!
I'VE SHUT HIS AGGRESSION CIRCUITS! NOW I'LL HIT HIM WITH THESE BACK-UP SONICS!!
RECKLESS YOUNG FOOLS!

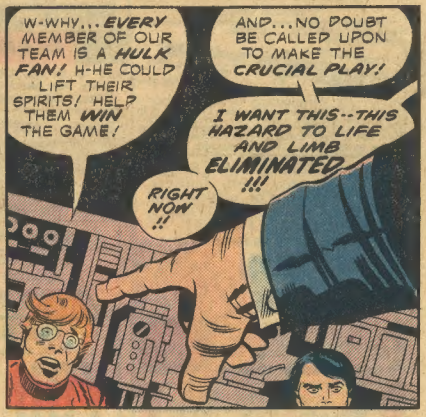
IT'S WORKING, RUSTY! THE SONIC BEAM IS DISRUPTING ITS ELECTRO-WAVES!
GRUU-U-K!!
IT'S WINDING DOWN! IT CAN'T MOVE!
ZZTT!

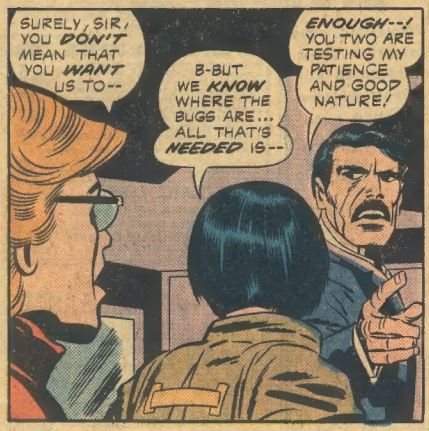

Y-YOU'VE DONE IT, ARTHUR! W-WE'RE SAFE!
SURE! I WAS NEVER WORRIED!
RAWWN--

A FEW MORE REFINEMENTS IN THE REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM SHOULD SEE THIS JOB FINISHED !!
YEAH! THE OTHERS WILL FLIP WHEN WE FINALLY TELL THEM --

-- WE'VE BUILT OLD "GREENSKIN!" --THE FABULOUS INCREDIBLE HULK!
AND YOU TWO SHALL PROMPTLY BE EXPELLED!
I'VE NEVER WITNESSED SUCH DEPLORABLE USE OF VALUABLE TIME AND MATERIEL!
THEY'LL PANIC!!







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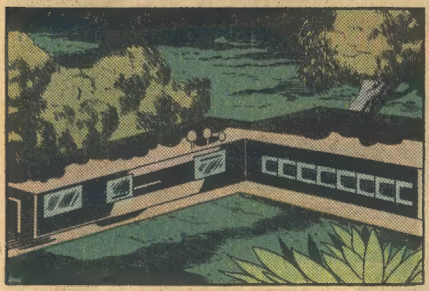
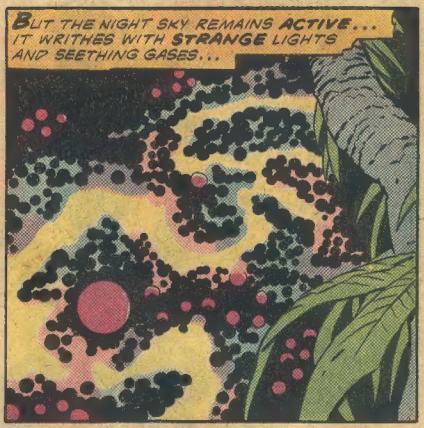
TOMORROW IS EVER THE WORD FOR **TOO LATE!** THIS NIGHT IS FATED TO SPAWN THE **UNEXPECTED** WHEN THE POTENT FORCES OF THE UNKNOWN ERUPT FROM ABOVE. SILENCE HOVERS ABOUT THE RESEARCH LAB. THE STUDENTS HAVE PLACED THE ELECTRONIC HULK IN HIS BOX AND LEFT THE PREMISES...

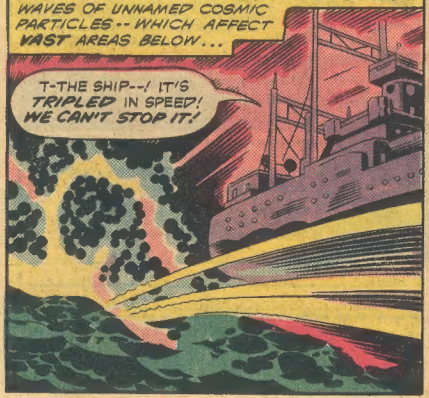


BUT THE NIGHT SKY REMAINS **ACTIVE**... IT WRITHES WITH **STRANGE** LIGHTS AND SEETHING GASES...

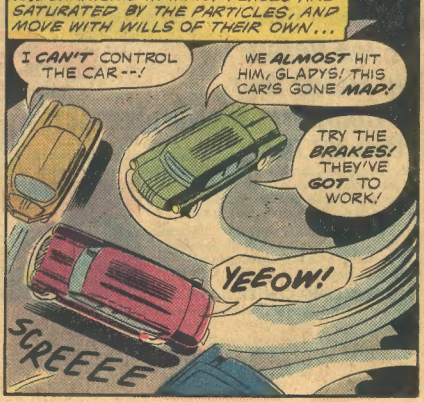


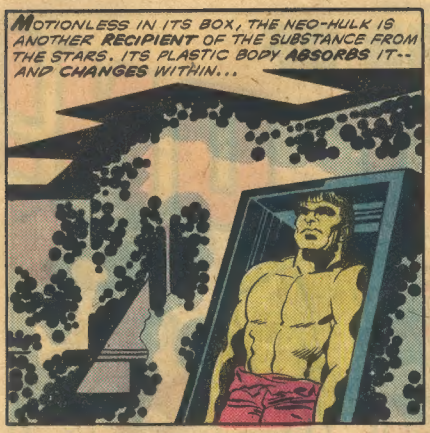
THE SOURCE IS A MARVEL OF BIZARRE LIFE. THE **UNI-MIND**, AN ORGANISM BROUGHT INTO BEING AMONG THE **ETERNALS**, NOW DESCENDS TO ITS HOME PLANET-- **EARTH**...

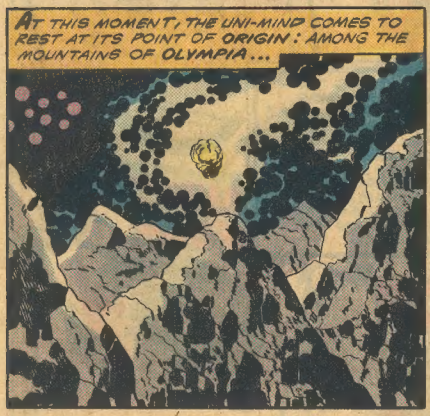
BUT THE UNI-MIND BRINGS WITH IT **GIANT** WAVES OF UNNAMED COSMIC PARTICLES -- WHICH AFFECT **VAST** AREAS BELOW...



MECHANISMS IN MANY PLACES ARE SATURATED BY THE PARTICLES, AND MOVE WITH WILLS OF THEIR OWN...







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SOON AFTER, THE EMPTY SPACES OF THE CITY BEGIN TO BURGEON WITH THE LEVITATING THRONGS WHICH HAD DESERTED THEM...

RECEIVE US, OLYMPIA! YOUR BUILDERS RETURN!

AS PART OF THE UNI-MIND, WE'VE ACHIEVED NEW PERSPECTIVES!

ALL MEN MUST BECOME AS ONE!

IKARIS! HELP ME! I-I'M STILL FRIGHTENED!

HASN'T THE EXPERIENCE OF UNI-MIND GIVEN YOU ANY CONFIDENCE AT ALL?

I-I'M NOT AN ETERNAL! I CAN'T LEVITATE! IT JUST SCARES ME SILLY!

IT WAS I WHO LEVITATED YOU! I'D NEVER HAVE DROPPED YOU, MARGO!

MARGO DAMIAN SHOULD BE DROPPED ON HER HEAD! AND THAT GOES FOR YOU AS WELL, SAM HOLDEN!

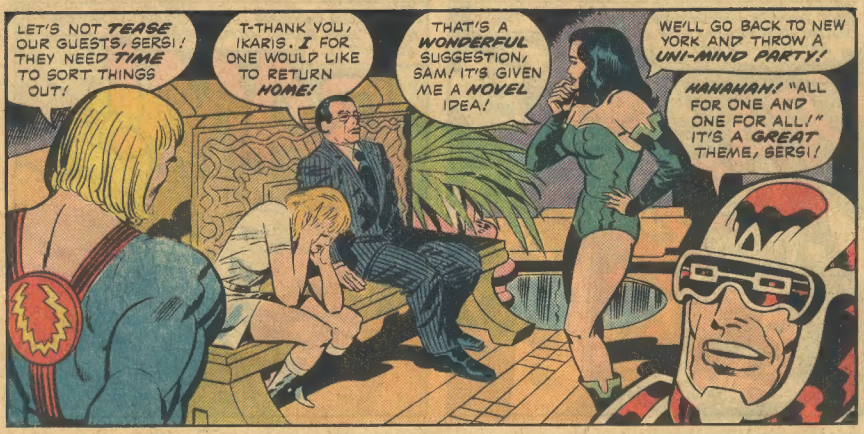
WE ARE WHEN IT COMES TO THIS SORT OF THING, SERGI!

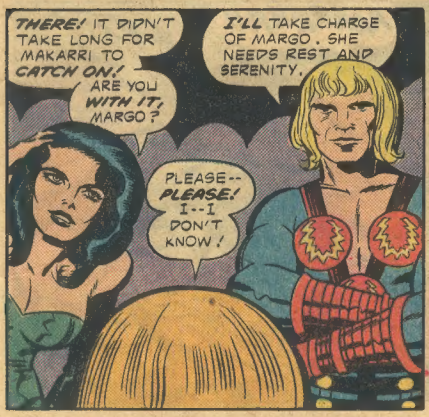
YOU HUMANS ARE IN-CORRIGIBLE SOFTIES!

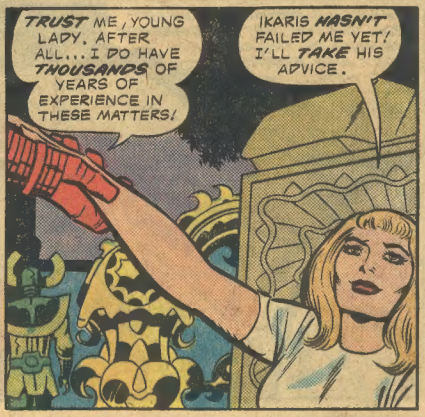
OH, I KNOW THAT YOU WERE HELPING ME TO LEVITATE... BUT DON'T YOU SEE? I-I'M PROGRAMMED TO RELEGATE THIS KIND OF FACULTY TO MYTHICAL WITCHES AND WARLOCKS!

HI-HO... WHAT ELSE IS NEW? HUMAN FEARS SEEM END-LESS!!

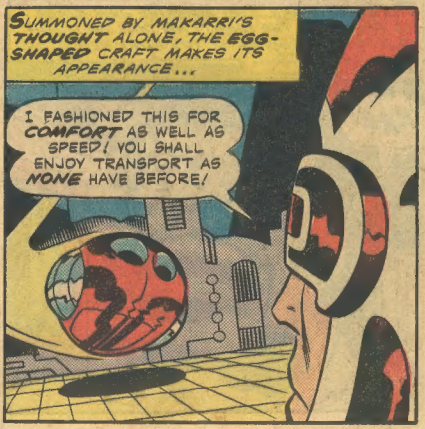
TO ME, LEVITATION IS IMPOSSIBLE!

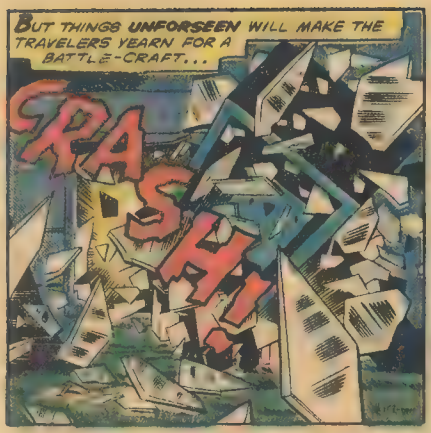

LET'S NOT TEASE OUR GUESTS, SERGI! THEY NEED TIME TO SORT THINGS OUT!
T-THANK YOU, IKARIS. I FOR ONE WOULD LIKE TO RETURN HOME!
THAT'S A WONDERFUL SUGGESTION, SAM! IT'S GIVEN ME A NOVEL IDEA!
WE'LL GO BACK TO NEW YORK AND THROW A UNI-MIND PARTY!
HAHAHAH! "ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL!" IT'S A GREAT THEME, SERGI!

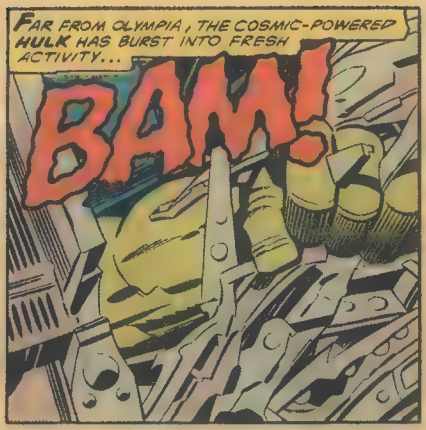

THERE! IT DIDN'T TAKE LONG FOR MAKARRI TO CATCH ON!
ARE YOU WITH IT, MARGO?
I'LL TAKE CHARGE OF MARGO. SHE NEEDS REST AND SERENITY.
PLEASE-- PLEASE! I--I DON'T KNOW!

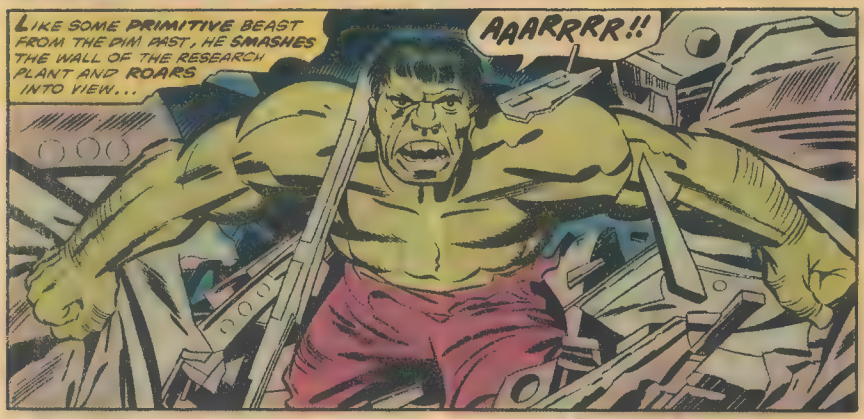

TRUST ME, YOUNG LADY. AFTER ALL... I DO HAVE THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS!
IKARIS HASN'T FAILED ME YET! I'LL TAKE HIS ADVICE.

THEN IT'S SETTLED! WE'LL GO BACK TO NEW YORK... BUT EACH TO SEEK WHAT SERVES HIM BEST!
I'LL BUY THAT!
AND YOU, MAKARRI?
WHAT SERVES ME BEST IS TO SERVE MY FRIENDS!
BEHOLD! MY LATEST VEHICLE!

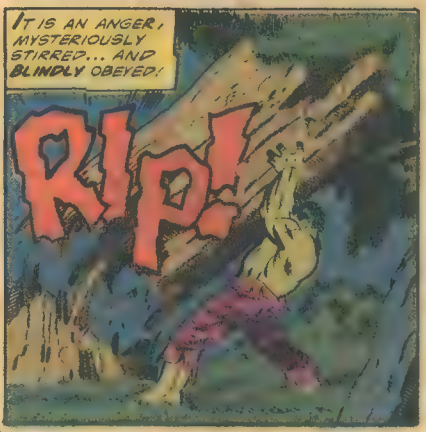

SUMMONED BY MAKARRI'S THOUGHT ALONE, THE EGG-SHAPED CRAFT MAKES ITS APPEARANCE...
I FASHIONED THIS FOR COMFORT AS WELL AS SPEED! YOU SHALL ENJOY TRANSPORT AS NONE HAVE BEFORE!

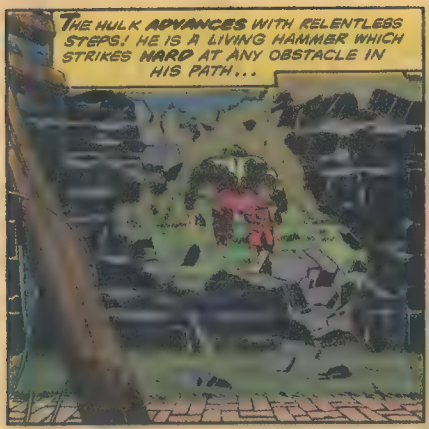

BUT THINGS UNFORSEEN WILL MAKE THE TRAVELERS YEARN FOR A BATTLE-CRAFT...
CRASH!

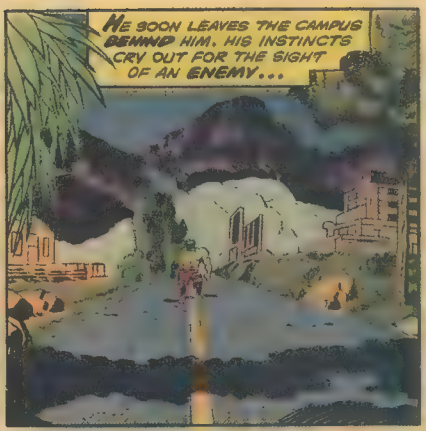

FAR FROM OLYMPIA, THE COSMIC-POWERED HULK HAS BURST INTO FRESH ACTIVITY...
BAM!

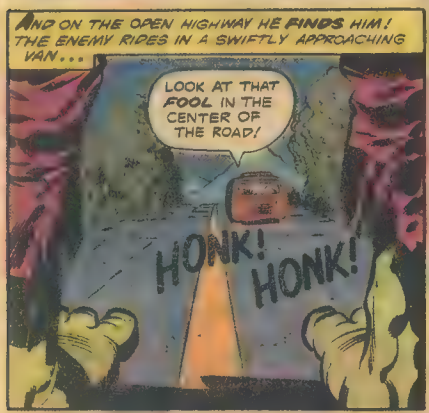

LIKE SOME PRIMITIVE BEAST FROM THE DIM PAST, HE SMASHES THE WALL OF THE RESEARCH PLANT AND ROARS INTO VIEW...
AAARRRR!!

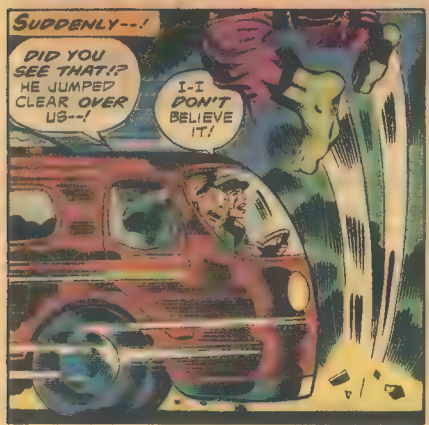
THE EYES FLARE. THE MASSIVE JAW BARES ITS TEETH TO THE NIGHT. NO DIAL OR PUSH-BUTTON HAS SPARKED THE FURY REFLECTED IN THAT FACE...
RRR!

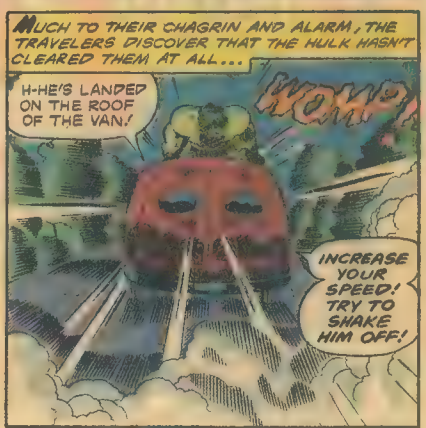

IT IS AN ANGER, MYSTERIOUSLY STIRRED... AND BLINDLY OBEYED!
RIP!











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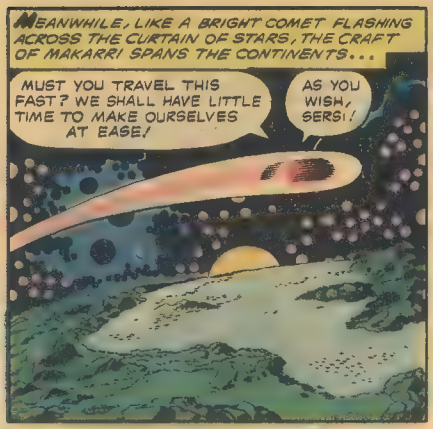
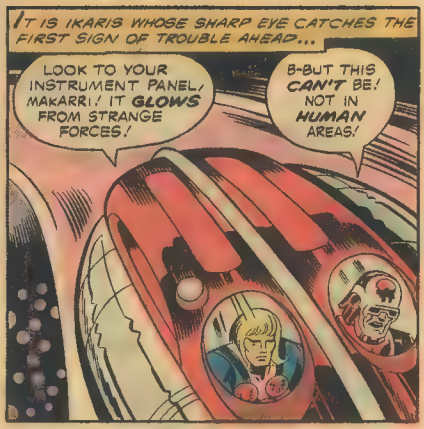
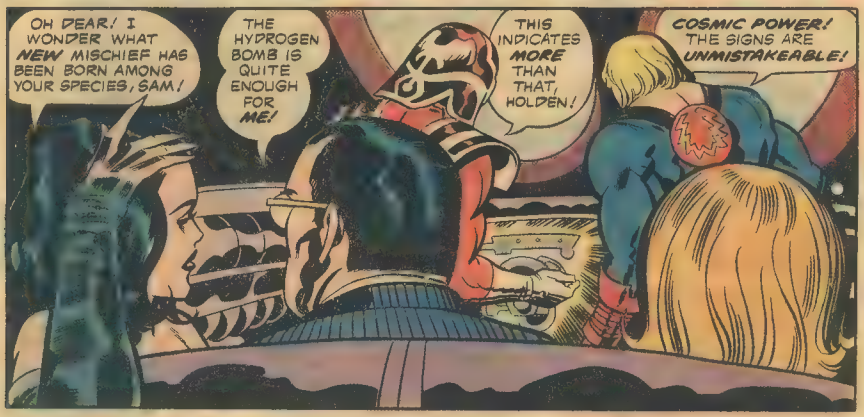
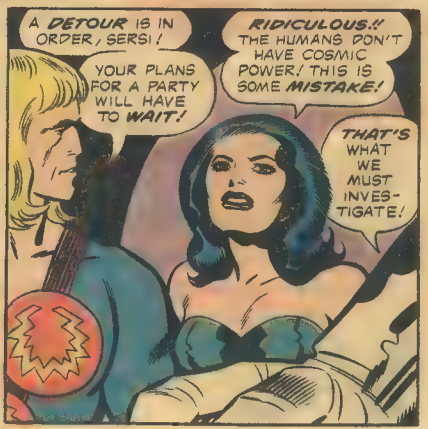
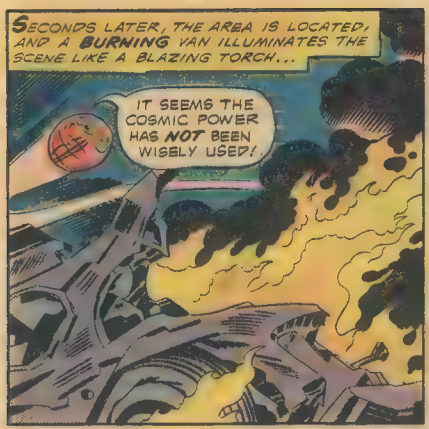

MEANWHILE, LIKE A BRIGHT COMET FLASHING ACROSS THE CURTAIN OF STARS, THE CRAFT OF MAKARR! SPANS THE CONTINENTS...
MUST YOU TRAVEL THIS FAST? WE SHALL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO MAKE OURSELVES AT EASE!
AS YOU WISH, SERSI!

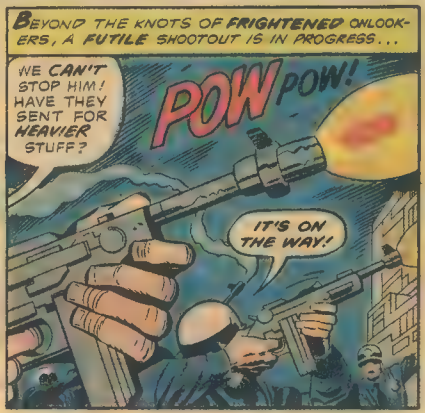

IT IS IKARIS WHOSE SHARP EYE CATCHES THE FIRST SIGN OF TROUBLE AHEAD...
LOOK TO YOUR INSTRUMENT PANEL, MAKARR! IT GLOWS FROM STRANGE FORCES!
B-BUT THIS CAN'T BE! NOT IN HUMAN AREAS!

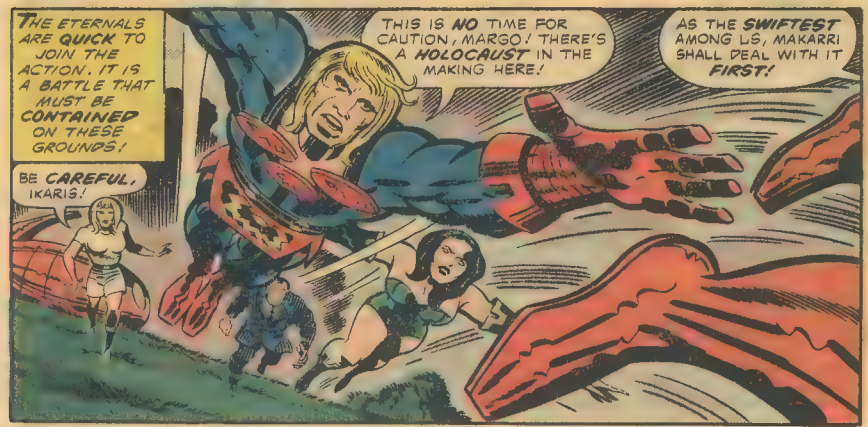

OH DEAR! I WONDER WHAT NEW MISCHIEF HAS BEEN BORN AMONG YOUR SPECIES, SAM!
THE HYDROGEN BOMB IS QUITE ENOUGH FOR ME!
THIS INDICATES MORE THAN THAT, HOLDEN!
COSMIC POWER! THE SIGNS ARE UNMISTAKEABLE!

IT'S DEFINITELY BEING GENERATED SOMEWHERE IN THE UNITED STATES!
WE'LL BE ABLE TO PINPOINT THE EXACT SPOT MOMENTARILY!


A DETOUR IS IN ORDER, SERSI!
YOUR PLANS FOR A PARTY WILL HAVE TO WAIT!
RIDICULOUS!! THE HUMANS DON'T HAVE COSMIC POWER! THIS IS SOME MISTAKE!
THAT'S WHAT WE MUST INVES-TIGATE!







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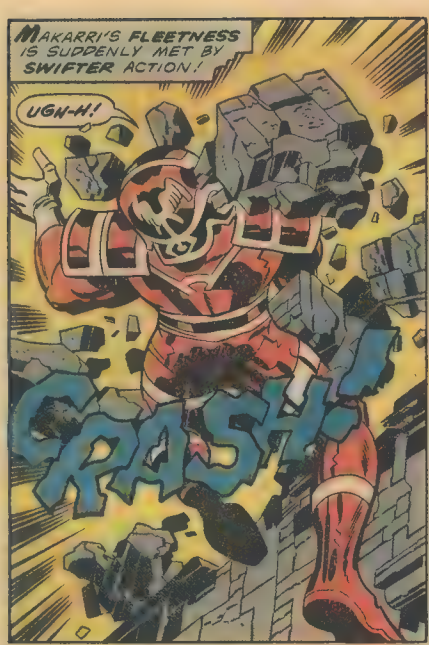
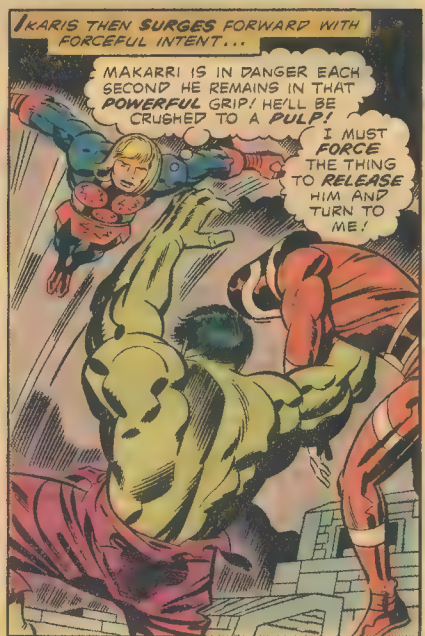
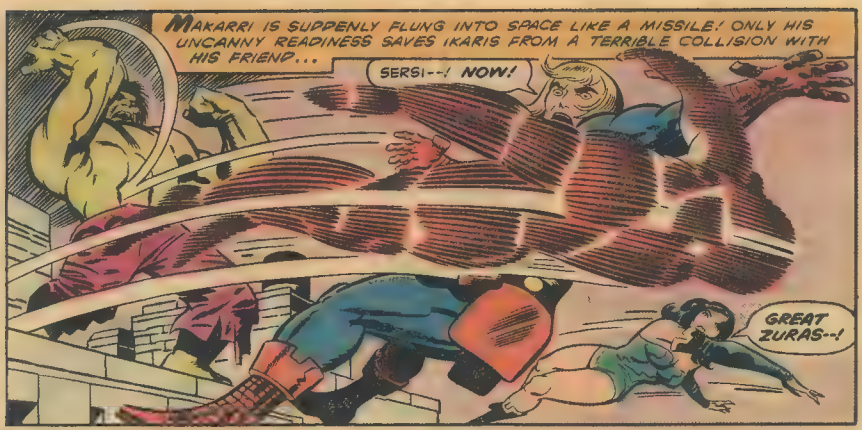
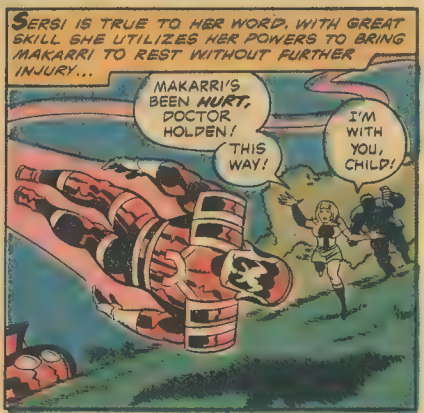

MAKARRI'S FLEETNESS IS SUDDENLY MET BY SWIFTER ACTION!
UGH-H!
CRASH!

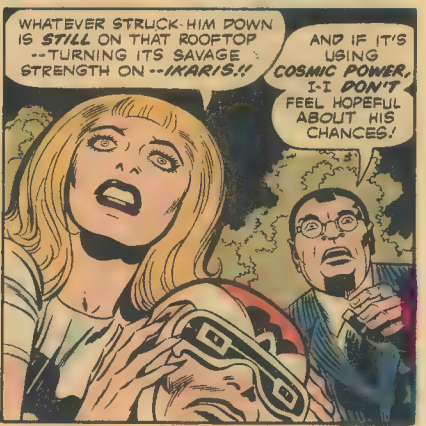
HE EXPERIENCES TOTAL SURPRISE BEFORE HE PASSES OUT! HAD MAKARRI SEEN HIS ADVERSARY, HE'D HAVE SURELY WONDERED HOW THIS HULK COULD POSSIBLY SURPASS HIM IN SPEED...
IKARIS! THAT THING'S GOT MAKARRI!

I-IT'S AN INCREDIBLE CREATURE! NEITHER HUMAN NOR ETERNAL!
IF IT DROPS MAKARRI FROM THAT ROOFTOP, THE FALL WILL NOT KILL HIM--BUT IT COULD INJURE HIM FOR ETERNITY!
DO AS I TELL YOU, SERS! STAND BY TO LEVITATE MAKARRI! USE ALL OF YOUR POWER!


IKARIS THEN SURGES FORWARD WITH FORCEFUL INTENT...
MAKARRI IS IN DANGER EACH SECOND HE REMAINS IN THAT POWERFUL GRIP! HE'LL BE CRUSHED TO A PULP!
I MUST FORCE THE THING TO RELEASE HIM AND TURN TO ME!







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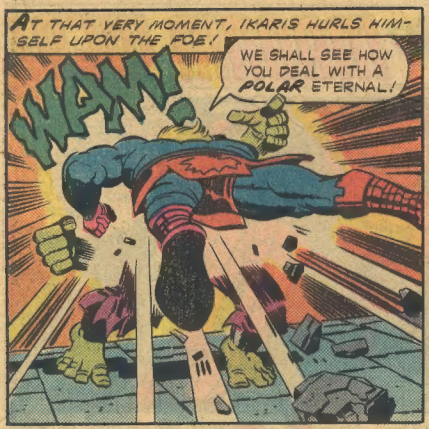
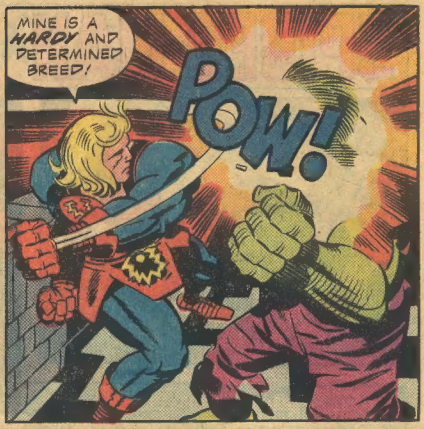
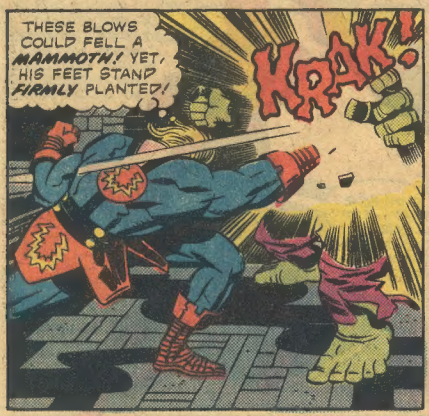
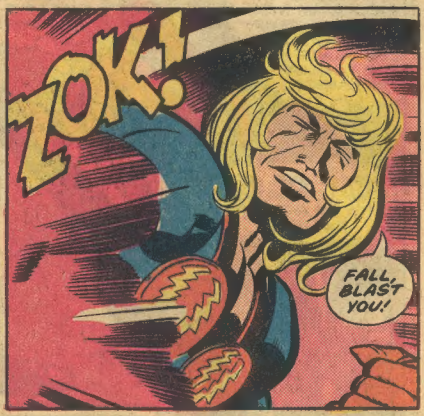
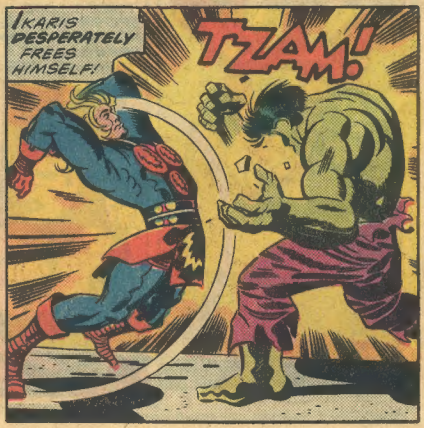

AT THAT VERY MOMENT, IKARIS HURLS HIMSELF UPON THE FOE!
WE SHALL SEE HOW YOU DEAL WITH A POLAR ETERNAL!
WAM!

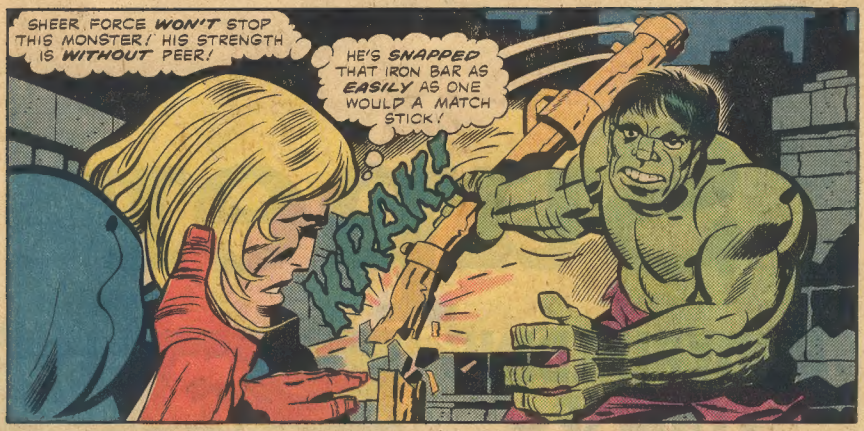

MINE IS A HARDY AND DETERMINED BREED!
POW!


THESE BLOWS COULD FELL A MAMMOTH! YET, HIS FEET STAND FIRMLY PLANTED!
KRAK!

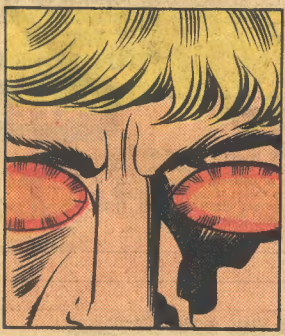

ZOK!
FALL, BLAST YOU!

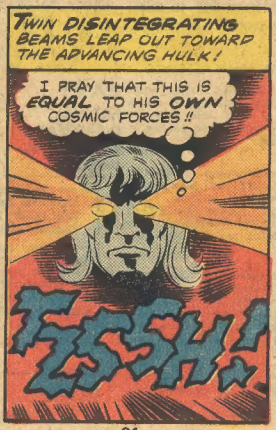
INSTEAD OF CRUMBLING, THE HULK LASHES OUT WITH A MIGHTY HAND WHICH CLOSES UPON IKARIS LIKE A STEEL VISE!


IKARIS DESPERATELY FREES HIMSELF!
TZAM!



THE EYES OF IKARIS BEGIN TO GLOW WITH DEMON FIRE, SUMMONED IN MOMENTS OF DIRE STRESS...





WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT? DON'T MISS--

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Jack,

What sets ETERNALS in a unique class among comic books is the manner in which it is presented. Underlying the many different groups which the book features, the true primary characters seem to be the human race. Although the book shows the interaction among Deviants, Eternals, and Celestials, the reaction of mankind to all of the new phenomena with which it has had to wrestle is the most interesting, because it deals with a common ground to all the readers. In reading ETERNALS, we ask ourselves what our reactions and perceptions would be to the sight of a towering Celestial or a devil-imaged Deviant.

Another unique aspect of this book is that it exists among so many different settings. Issue #10 is a good example. The issue is complex in that the action switches from Lemuria to Olympia and briefly to other parts of the world, all showing action involving the various characters and groups featured in this book. Instead of one main character, this book has a whole assemblage to pick from. The future plotlines which can evolve from this type of casting are endless. For these reasons I find this latest issue and the whole ETERNALS narrative to be an extremely enjoyable and entertaining comic series. I'm anxious to see what future efforts bring.

Bill Dickenson
5930 W. Broadway—Apt #8
Crystal, MN 55428

Dear Jack:

ETERNALS #10 was one of the best issues so far, perhaps because so many plot threads were sewn together this ish. Jack, this is definitely your best book. Marvel, this is definitely your best book, too.

Concerning the letters page, I'm sick of the controversy about whether ETERNALS should occur in the Marvel Universe! Hasn't anyone ever heard of dramatic license? I hope so—'cause Marvel uses it all the time.

I also disagree with Mike Christiansen's letter complaining about the lack of action in issue #6. That number was one of my favorite issues.

Mike Underwood
6241 18th Avenue N
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Well, no one can argue the fact that you're among Jack's staunchest supporters, Mike—and there's a plethora of fellow ETERNALS enthusiasts numbering in the tens of thousands, judging by the fantastic mail and sales garnered by this graphic-arts super-saga. Even itinerant Irv Forbush admits to an incredible admiration for King Kirby's sensational wide-scope story of the gods!

Dear Jack,

Those arguing about whether or not ETERNALS takes place in the Marvel Universe should just consider this new set of divinities a *version* of the ones in THOR, *et al*. No hassle. My main doubt is whether ETERNALS is a self-destructing series, like PLANET OF THE APES. There is really no suspense about what the Space Gods are here to do; if, after countless experiments, they *still* aren't satisfied, dear ol' Earth can count its remaining days.

Notice that in #8 the Deviants exterminate each generation of mutate rejects, and that's abhorrent to Thena. But these Spacers are ready to erase the entire population, and that's just fine by Ajak. "Never question or refuse a Celestial—*accept* them as you would the whimsies of Fate," he says.

But if this endless time has produced endless failure as far as growing an acceptable race of Aduums—losta luck, people! If beings that powerful fail continually, one gets the odd feeling that in fact they are *succeeding* at something their conscious minds may not acknowledge—eliminating potential rivals by seeding habitable worlds and monitoring the evolution of intelligence thereon. Then the Aduums start reaching for space—*Zappo*! One less source of competition. If the Celestials were on the level, at least one seed race would have made it in all these billions of years. But the game is as rigged as Renewal in LOGAN'S RUN.

So Makarri is Mercury? Nope. Sprite has the legendary traits of the Messenger of the Gods—juvenile, a prankster, a thief, quick of wit, adept at magic, nimble and innocent of appearance. (He robbed Ikaris of his peace of mind, didn't he?) And obviously the Reject is a counterpart of the War-God Mars—"The bestial passions seem but more foul, writ upon a noble face"—or something.

The artwork here is arresting, to wit the dragonfight spread and Eson calmly studying the ocean liner. The perspective of Eson's dive suggests Dali's style. And you've captured Reject's kill frenzy with a brutal realism.

Laura Ruskin
6305 Gretna
Whittier, CA 90601

Your comments and observations are appreciated, Laura, and since you brought it up (as did Mike Underwood before you), and also since Jack settled discussion for once and all by establishing that ETERNALS does, indeed, take place within the continuity of the Marvel Universe, we wanna take the opportunity to officially call a halt to the debate which began here on the letters page in the infancy of this title.

'Nuff said for the nonce, at least on that subject.

After all, we're just burstin' to find out what y'all thought of this most modern Marvel masterwork. We'll be back with another episode of the ever-lovin' ETERNALS before ya know it, folks, so write fast! *Ta-ta!*

scanned by *Wizard*